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alleges that the Lee Patent teaches much of the claimed invention with the exception of the surface features allegedly taught by the Hilderman Patent and the coating on an inner surface allegedly taught by the Henning et al. Patent. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the attached Declaration and the following remarks.

Applicants have attached the Declaration of Steve Lee Under 37 C.F.R. §1.31 swearing behind the issue date of the Lee Patent thereby disqualifying the Lee Patent as prior art under §102(a). Applicants note that the Lee Patent therefore only qualifies as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), (f) or (g). Applicants further note that the Lee Patent and the subject patent application are commonly owned by Lumisource, Inc. Accordingly, under 35 U.S.C. §103(c), the Lee Patent cannot preclude patentability of the subject patent application.

Applicants urge that the Hilderman Patent and the Henning et al. Patent, in combination, do not teach or suggest a decorative light bulb that includes an outer surface forming a decorative shape having one or more inert gases within the decorative light bulb creating ethereal electrical arcing having a first color. In addition, the combination of the Hilderman Patent and the Henning et al. Patent do not teach or suggest a surface feature formed on the outer surface of the decorative light bulb, the surface feature having an inner surface wherein a coating applied on the inner surface of the surface feature results in ethereal electrical arcing having a second color along the inner surface of the surface feature. Applicants urge that the

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subject patent application is allowable in view of the cited references and early allowance is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants intend to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. If the Examiner detects any issue which the Examiner believes Applicants have not addressed in this response, Applicants urge the Examiner to contact the undersigned, preferably by telephone at 847.490.1400.

Applicants sincerely believe that this Patent Application is now in condition for allowance and, thus, respectfully requests early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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